



# County of San Diego

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## POWAY LANDFILL - INVESTIGATION UPDATE

### JANUARY 2007 SOIL VAPOR AND GROUNDWATER SAMPLING RESULTS

In January 2007, groundwater and soil vapor samples were again collected from points on the Poway landfill and within the residential neighborhood. The results are very consistent with previous testing, and do not show a significant risk to human health.

There has been very little rainfall this year and groundwater levels have dropped. It is not possible to determine if there are seasonal changes that could affect the sampling results. Monitoring over all seasons and rainfall conditions needs to continue to ensure that no impacts will occur during a very wet season or if water levels rise.

#### Background:

In late 2004, low levels of solvents were detected in groundwater on the Poway landfill. While investigating the groundwater contamination, very low levels of benzene and other solvents were found in shallow soil vapor test probes in the streets just south of the landfill.

In 2006 public meetings were held by the Department of Environmental Health (DEH) to present the results. Human health risk assessments were conducted. The results show that there is not a significant risk to human health from the levels of chemicals detected. The data appears to show that not all of the chemical contamination is coming from the landfill. Some of it may be coming from other sources.



## **January 2007 Sampling Results**

In January 2007, groundwater and soil vapor samples were collected. See results below:

### **Groundwater**

There were no significant changes in water quality or the levels of contamination compared to previous groundwater results. One well located off the landfill had levels of trichloroethene (TCE) and a related compound that were above drinking water standards. This well is located in an undeveloped area southwest of the landfill, not in the residential neighborhood. Groundwater is not used as drinking water in this area – all water is imported.

### **Soil vapor**

Soil vapor testing showed slightly improved results from previous testing:

- Tetrachloroethene (PCE) concentrations decreased in both on and offsite wells
- Benzene was detected in only one well
- Trichloroethene (TCE) was not detected during the January 2007 sampling event

Based on these results, a revised risk assessment was not needed. The lower results would show a lower risk than the previous assessment.

## **Past Public Communications**

On March 30, 2006 and August 31, 2006 the DEH, the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the County Department of Public Works held public meetings regarding testing at the Poway landfill. Since there are no major changes in conditions and results, a public meeting is not needed at this time. If results or conditions change after future sampling, a meeting will be scheduled.

DEH's Poway Landfill webpage will continue to be updated. For more information log on to <http://www.sdcdeh.org> Click on the "Monitoring at Poway Landfill" link to review reports, sign up for the e-mail distribution list and get information about upcoming meetings.

## **Future Actions**

Soil vapor sampling will continue until it can be shown that there is no seasonal variation and levels remain the same. Semi-annual groundwater sampling will likely continue indefinitely.

Another round of groundwater and soil vapor sampling occurred at the end of July 2007. It is not expected that results will show any changes due to the dry weather. A winter 2007/2008 sampling may generate results that will show seasonal variability if there is enough rain. As mentioned previously, if results or conditions change, a public meeting will be scheduled.

If you have any questions, please call Rebecca Lafreniere at (858) 694-2232 or Melissa Porter at (858) 694-2801.